

## Cooperation is cure against al Qaeda

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

There are many ways to win the Global War on Terrorism besides hunting down all al Qaeda fighters and killing them. U.S and Afghan doctors in the Khowst area have found another cure for this battle – cooperation.

On Saturday, 50 doctors met at Forward Operating Base Salerno for a medical conference, which was designed to gain a better idea of the medical assets available in the Khowst area, as well as determine the current needs of the local medical community.

The U.S. doctors came from Salerno and Chapman Air Field, while the Afghan doctors, three of them females,

were from the Khowst Civilian Hospital and Khowst University Hospital.

The doctors have long worked together and discussed Afghan health care issues, but this was the first formal gathering for this purpose.

“It is important that we have a good relationship,” said Dr. Muhammad Rasool Habibi, director of the Khowst University Hospital. “It is also important because I want to learn, so that I can better help my patients.”

He went on to say that Afghan doctors do not have access to modern equipment, such as ultrasound or x-ray machines; they are treating people with older methods.

To help all patients in the area, dur-

ing the conference the doctors had lectures on several topics which are relevant to the Khowst Province. They discussed basic care for head injuries as well as external fixation for fracture management, attaching a metal framework to the outside of the body to help broken bones heal.

“One of the most common dilemmas in the Khowst area is head injuries,” said Dr. (Maj.) Peter Ray, medical director for Salerno’s 325<sup>th</sup> Forward Surgical Team. “A CT scanner is necessary to determine who needs surgery and who doesn’t.”

A CT scanner is also a basic tool for determining the extent of internal injuries from blunt force traumas. The doctors can find out if there is a need for surgery before they cut the patient open.

The nearest non-U.S. military CT scanner is in Pakistan. The U.S. doctors hope that they can help get a CT scanner using Commander’s Emergency Response Program (CERP) funding.

This fund, which enables military leaders to respond to urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction needs, has already purchased an ambulance for the university hospital so they can transport patients to their homes after surgery.

As the local doctors get more train-

**See COOPERATION page 4**



Dr. (Maj.) Peter Ray, closes up after removing a lobe of a thyroid gland as Afghan Dr. Muhammad Rasool Habibi (center) observes and Dr. (Maj.) James Frizzi assist.

## Salerno Happenings

### Postal, Finance, PSB

Detachment C, 841st Adjutant General Company (Postal) is located in the first B-hut next to AAFES. Their hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 0430 to 1200z and Wednesdays 0430 to 0730z. They accept cash and Eagle Cash cards.

The 125th Finance Battalion (Forward) is located next to the post office and are available for casual pays, check cashing and pay inquiries Mondays through Saturdays 0430 to 1230z.

The third B-hut from the main road is occupied by the 556th Personnel Support Battalion. They are open for customer service Mondays through Saturdays 0430 to 1230z.

## The World

### Web Site Offers High-Storage E-mail

A solution has been found to that e-mail account that always seems full. Gmail is the new email service from Google. They are offering 1 GigaByte of free space for its users (compared to 100 megabytes for Yahoo, and 5 megabytes for Hotmail). Right now it's in beta testing and is invite only.

These invitations have ended up on eBay and have gone for as much as \$60. But are being offered for free to troops at [www.Gmail4troops.com](http://www.Gmail4troops.com).

### Titans Release Leading Rusher

Eddie George's career with the Tennessee Titans is over. The team granted George's request Wednesday and released the franchise's all-time leading rusher — a move forced by salary cap pressures and perhaps George's declining skills.

The eight-year veteran, who turns 31 in September, rejected the Titans' latest offer and asked for his release Monday so he would have time to catch on with another team before training camps open next week.

The Titans wanted George back, but at a reduced salary. The team's final offer was \$1.5 million in base salary — considerably less than the \$4.25 million he expected to make this season.

George, who has never missed a start in his career, was popular with Titans fans, but his production slipped in recent years. In 2000, he ran for 1,509 yards, averaging 3.7 yards per carry. But last season his average fell to 3.3 yards per carry, and his total was 1,031.

## DON'T OVER DO IT

Upon your return to Alaska do not overdo it. That not only goes for fishing, but all other aspects that you have been without for the past nine months.



# Geronimos uphold standards, ethos

Geronimo Troopers,

As I write this final note for *The Geronimo*, many of you have already departed to Bagram on our GACs and those of you still at FOB Salerno are preparing to transition duties to the 3-6 Marines.

Our time in Afghanistan is winding to a close. As we all prepare to go home and reunite with our friends and family, it is appropriate to reflect on all you have accomplished here.

The Geronimos have successfully closed with and destroyed the enemy in every engagement. We have achieved the highest detention success rate of any Task Force in Afghanistan. We have recovered tons of munitions and weapons.

We have spent over \$1.5 million helping to improve the individual Afghanis well-being. Additionally, countless millions have been poured into the economy building schools and roads, hiring local workers, and providing a more stable environment for economic growth.

Finally, we have exceeded every voter registration expectation and Khwost province leads the way in all

the Eastern provinces with over 160,000 registered voters.

The proceeding achievements were not accomplished by accident. They were accomplished by your competence, discipline, motivation and dedication to each other.

You have upheld the standards and ethos of the World War II and Vietnam Geronimo paratroopers who made history before you. You have enriched that great history through your successes.

Your Battle Streamer will fly on the Task Force Colors. Be proud. Hold your head high. Your sacrifices are recognized and appreciated by a grateful nation.

You, now and forever, will be a part of something bigger than yourself. You directly contributed to our Nation's future by fighting in the Global War on Terrorism.

Time will move quickly upon departure from

Afghanistan and return to Alaska. A new chapter in the Task Force history is about to be opened.

Stay focused. I will see every Geronimo we deployed with upon return to home.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve with each of you.

Geronimo 06  
38<sup>th</sup> Task Force Commander



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth














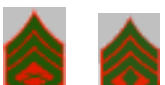


**ABOVE:** Forward Support Company, TF 1-501st PIR, Soldiers practice off loading tricons from a flatbed prior to the first convoy heading to Bagram Air Field. **BELOW:** TF 1-501st PIR advance party load a plane in their first step in returning to Alaska.





# Marines have landed

Use the handy chart below to find out who outranks who on the FOB. Welcome aboard 3-6 Marines.

<b>NO INSIGNIA</b>	<b>E1</b>	<b>NO INSIGNIA</b>
Private		Private
	<b>E2</b>	
Private E-2		Private First Class
	<b>E3</b>	
Privat First Class		Lance Corporal
	<b>E4</b>	
Specialist Corporal		Corporal
	<b>E5</b>	
Sergeant		Sergeant
	<b>E6</b>	
Staff Sergeant		Staff Sergeant
	<b>E7</b>	
Sergeant First Class		Gunnery Sergeant
	<b>E8</b>	
Master Sergeant First Sergeant		Master Sergeant First Sergeant
	<b>E9</b>	
Sergeant Major Command Sergeant Major		Sergeant Major Master Gunnery Sergeant

## Cooperation: Cont. from page 1



ing and start performing more surgeries another need arises – blood.

“It doesn’t do any good for them to perform surgery on a patient and then not have blood to replace what is lost,” Ray said.

Unlike in the states, there isn’t a Red Cross bloodmobile traveling the Afghan cities collecting blood. The doctors used the conference to talk about what is needed to start up a blood bank in the local hospital.

Besides discussing care of people that are already sick or injured, the conference also spawned conversations on the prevention of malaria and brucellosis in Afghanistan.

“Malaria is the biggest problem in Khowst,” said Rasool. “We have to look at preventing it as well as curing it, because the parasites are becoming resistant to the drugs.”

Rasool thinks this is because when an Afghan comes down with malaria, they purchase chloroquine but do not

take all the medication. They take just enough until the fever goes down and then stop, therefore they do kill the parasites, but actually make them stronger.

The knowledge is not a one way street though. Ray said that there are diseases in Afghanistan that are not prevalent in the states. The U.S. doctors asked their Afghan counterparts how they treat those diseases in order to better care for U.S. service members who come down with something new.

The conference was such a success that all the doctors want to make it a regular event. Future conferences and working together will help Ray meet a goal that he has.

When the coalition forces leave Afghanistan, Ray wants to be sure that they have not created a void where there is no medical treatment for the locals. He wants Rasool and his colleagues to be able to give the Afghan people the same level of treatment that they receive from American doctors.

### Khowst voter registration update

Voter registration sites have been set up in 15 out of 15 Khowst provinces. The UN’s initial estimate for this region was 30,000 registered. Already, more than 163,000 (one third female) have signed up to vote in Afghanistan’s upcoming elections. The total is expected to be 200,000.

# Don't let malaria parasite bug you in the states

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

"I have been deployed for nine months, I don't have malaria!"

That is a phrase I have not heard yet at FOB Salerno, but am sure has been uttered not only by members of our task force but Soldiers, past and present, throughout the world.

I know for a fact this was said by a couple Task Force Bravo Soldiers who spent six months in Honduras, another country high on the Malaria chart. These Soldiers said this as they were getting on the plane bound for the states. These same Soldiers took the bag of additional malaria medication they got during out processing and chucked it in the trash of the passenger terminal.

They bordered their flights and flew home to Fort Lewis, Wash., and Fort Riley, Kan. A month or so later they went on sick call, complaining of a fever and other flu symptoms.

After treating them for flu and getting nowhere, the doctors found out the Soldiers had been in Honduras. Armed with this information the doctors checked their blood and found the malaria parasites and got the Soldiers started on the appropriate medications.

I was told by a barracks doctor that malaria was one of those diseases that keeps on giving, once you get it you have these symptoms

for the rest of your life. Not a very pleasant future.

Just think of having these symptoms forever: fever, shaking chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness. Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea may also occur.

Malaria may cause anemia and jaundice (yellow coloring of the skin and eyes) because of the loss of red blood cells.

Infection with one type of malaria, *Plasmodium falciparum*, if not promptly treated, may cause kidney failure, seizures, mental confusion, coma, and death.

The same research that gave me these symptoms also told me that malaria is curable.

According to the Center for Disease Control, any traveler

who becomes ill with any of these symptoms while traveling and up to 1 year after

returning home should immediately seek professional medical care. You should tell your health care provider that you have been traveling in a malaria-risk area.

The best way not to contract

malaria is to stay out of the 100 countries and territories where mosquitoes pass the disease from one human to the next. OK, that won't work for those of us that work for Uncle Sam.

The next best way is to take the malaria medication you have been given. This means continuing taking the mefloquine for four weeks after you return to the real world. Once bitten the parasite travels to your liver, where it multiplies, once it has a large enough force it assaults the rest of your body, this can take between 8 days and a couple months.

Mefloquine does not kill the parasite, but keeps the little bugs from reproducing. .

To kill it you need to take one final step. The step those two Soldiers leaving Honduras skipped.

When you leave Afghanistan you will get 14 primaquine pills, kryptonite to the malaria parasite. You take these once a day during your third and fourth week home.

I have had Malaria Monday for the past 40 weeks; I don't think an additional 4 when I get back to Alaska will hurt me. Who knows when I stop taking them I may miss those great dreams.

Follow through on your mission and take all your meds. If not I guess I can always do a story on you and your jaundice.

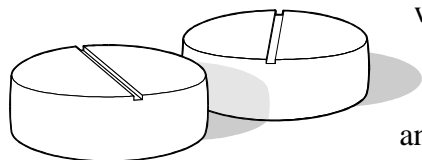
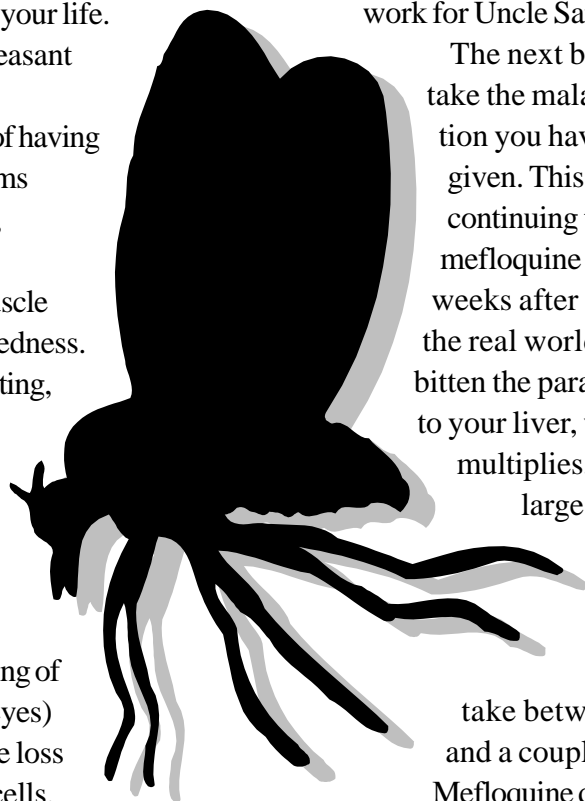




Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** U.S. Soldiers, Afghan military and Khowst leadership watch as local men perform the National Dance. The entertainment came at the conclusion of the dinner which not only celebrated the Fourth of July, but also the friendship and great work between the two countries. Ranger Gary Horton (seated) and Pete Stadler perform for the troops at the end of the day. Sgt. Giancarlo Pisano, Company A, TF 1-501st PIR, sprints to first base during the softball tournament only to have first baseman Staff Sgt. Joesph Chinquee, 325th Forward Support Hospital and Friends, catch the ball forcing him out. Soldiers and civilians tried their hands to see who would be the new Salerno Spades Kings.

## Celebrating independence in Afghanistan



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Hall



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth





Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

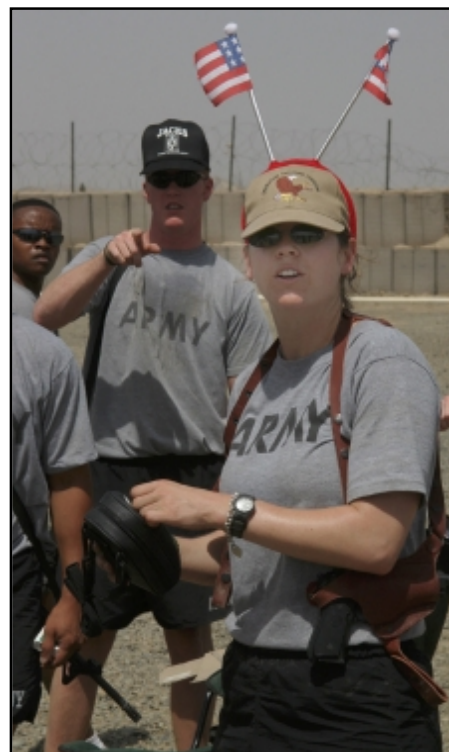


Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:** As Ranger Gary Horton explains what each of the 13 folds of the Old Glory represents, a TF 1-501st PIR flag detail folds the flag. Cpt. Kate Ready, 325th FST, shows her patriotic side on the Fourth. Cpt. Jin Park, Forward Support Company commander, bites into some local cuisine along with 1st Sgt. Michael Hargett, FSC first sergeant, and Afghan military soldiers and civilians. FOB residents line up for a picnic prepared by Kellogg, Brown and Root employees. Sgt. Roderick Butler, Headquarters Company, TF 1-501st PIR hangs onto the net for support as he has his legs are taken out from below him by Company A, 528th Engineer Battalion's Spc. Arthur Lee.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Hall



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth





ABOVE: As local nations fill the sidelines, players on the Khowst soccer team pass the ball to each other as they try to keep it away from the oncoming Salerno team member. LEFT: An Afghan player tries to keep Travis Rudge, Headquarters Company, TF 1-501st PIR, away from the ball as he nears the goal. The Afghans slaughtered the Americans 5-0, July 9.



## *Salerno Snapshots*

**PHOTOS BY  
STAFF SGT.  
JEFF TROTH**



325th Forward Surgical Team staff lay a tent out over it's framework. The tent is the second of three new tents the Salerno medical team is putting up to increase their medical capabilities.



ABOVE: TF 1-501st PIR paratroopers take advantage of the new Salerno Post Office to mail packages home prior to redeployment. The Geronimo mail accounted for about 90 percent of the more than \$13,000 in postage Detachment C, 841st Adjutant General Company (Postal) did in their first 3 1/2 days of business at Salerno. Making sure the mail gets out is Spc. John Oliver (right) customs, Spc. Kenneth O'Kelley, cashier and Sgt. Bobby Branscum (middle) stacks boxes for shipment to the states. LEFT: Staff Sgt. Mateo Gallardo tries to fit another box bound for Alaska into the already stuffed 20-foot milvan on the second day of business.



# USA Express pulls into Salerno

By Sgt. Frank Magni  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and civilians stationed at Forward Operating Base Salerno were provided a break from the rigors of operation Enduring Freedom by the Army's musical group *USA Express*, July 2.

As the performers belted out different tunes from a variety of genres base residents gathered around to hear the show aimed at providing a change of atmosphere and a big boost to morale.

Staff Sgt. Ray St. Louis, Battery B, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, said the show was an unexpected surprise for him.

"It was a nice break from the norm," he said. "We've been out here a long time, something small like this does a lot for morale.

"I see a lot of smiles on the faces of the Soldiers, which makes me feel good as a leader," St. Louis said.

Positive response like the ones of St. Louis are common, said Spc. John Barrow, *USA Express* drummer, but they never get old.

"It is why we come out to places like this," he said. "Our primary mis-

sion is to improve the morale of the service member."

Part of the Army Entertainment Division, *USA Express* is a group of Soldiers selected as the "best of the best (entertainers) from throughout the Army," said Sgt. Joe Lier, guitar player and band organizer.

Consisting of drums, bass, guitar and keyboard, along with three vocalists, the group travels specifically to locations like the Salerno because many other military entertainment groups can't performing the more remote locations due to their size and equipment load, said Lier.

"The purpose of *USA Express* is to bring music to the places that normally don't get it," said Barrow. "We are kind of like a music SWAT team."

Using the music to boost morale *USA Express* plays as wide a variety of music as possible.

"We realize the Army is pretty diverse, and we have to adapt to each



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

Daphne Cooper, *USA Express* vocalist, serenades Spc. Darryl Summers, Company A, 528th Engineer Battalion.

person," Barrows said. "Our play list is designed so that each person in the crowd will like three or four songs in our set."

Spc. Andrew Erwin, Forward Support Company, Task Force 1-501<sup>st</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment said the entire show was entertaining for him.

"They mix it up well, and mostly play things we all enjoy hearing," he said.

Afghanistan is the second-to-last stop of a six-month tour for *USA Express* that has taken them around the world. The band traveled to Korea, Alaska, Cuba, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and Iraq.

"We know that Soldiers are more effective in combat when they have higher moral," said Staff Sgt. Jennifer McMahon, *USA Express* vocalist.

Barrow said he hopes the band's performances in some way are helping to win the war on terror.



USA Express perform a variety of songs for the troops of FOB Salerno, during their six-month tour.

# Motorpool keeps Task Force rolling along

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

*First to fight for the right,  
And to build the Nation's might,  
And The Army Goes Rolling Along  
Proud of all we have done,  
Fighting till the battle's won,  
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.*

This is just one verse in the Army Song, which was written almost 100 years ago. Today we are more mobile than 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. (later Brig. Gen.) Edmund L. Gruber's horse-drawn field artillery days, making the line "The Army keeps rolling along" even more relevant.

The mechanics of the Forward Support Company have done their part to ensure that Task Force 1-501<sup>st</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment keeps rolling along during its time in Afghanistan.

The 13-man motor pool section is not only responsible for the battalion's 250 plus pieces of rolling stock, which includes HMMWVs, FMTVs, forklifts and trailers, but also all other vehicles on Salerno.



Spc. Joseph Zelidan works on the transmission of a HMMWV on the Salerno.

If the 501<sup>st</sup> had not brought these mechanics with them from Alaska the vehicles would have to be sent to Bagram Air Field for repair. A process that would put the vehicle out of commission for at least two weeks, according to Staff Sgt. Edward Jones, shop foreman.

"The OPTEMPO (operation tempo) here is so fast, you can't afford to have a vehicle down for more

than a couple hours or a day at the most," Jones said. "Plus, with us being here we get to know the vehicles. We get a personal bond with the vehicle and the operator. We know what they have been doing and what repairs have already been done on the vehicles."

The biggest cause of breakdowns of Geronimo vehicles has been due to the terrain which the patrols must travel across to complete their mission.

"There are not roads here, not what we call roads in the states," said Spc. Eddie Kinsey, an FSC mechanic attached from the 98<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company. "You take whatever route you can to get where you need to go, and that terrain is so different, mountain sides and a lot of rocks and boulders."

"We get a lot of tire problems, a lot of ball joints and tie rods that have to be replaced," said Jones. "The terrain dictates where your problem is going to be, and the terrain here is rough and rocky."

The roads that the task force drives every day are far from the paved



Staff Sgt. Shannon Tallant, Forward Support Company mechanic works on an uparmoured HMMWV's brake system during a recent patrol in downtown Khowst. Spc. Joseph Kleiber mans the MK-19, while Spc. Freddy Fernandez pulls security.



streets, or even the unpaved roads, most Americans drive on. Because of this, a lot of the vehicle casualties occur when they are not on Salerno. This has prompted the mechanics to send a contact team on missions when the infantry rolls out of the wire.

“A contact team gives us a maintenance asset on the front line to keep the vehicles running,” said Kinsley. “Usually the problems can be fixed right there, or repaired enough so that the vehicle can continue on with the mission.”

“The purpose of the contact team is to fix anything that happens in the field,” Jones said. “They do it all from injector ports to missing nuts and bolts off rims.”

If the contact teams were not in the field the patrol’s combat effectiveness would be greatly hampered because they would have to tow back the downed vehicle, according to Kinsley.

“We don’t have to evac the trucks out of the field,” said Jones. “The mechanics are out there and on Salerno to fix the vehicle problems and keep the mission rolling.”



**ABOVE:** Six HMMWVs and an FMTV are worked on simultaneously at the motorpool. **LEFT:** Sgt. Anthony Peak works on the suspension of an HMMWV. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A fuel HMMET is pulled onto the ramp for repair by the FSC mechanics. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** During Operation "Blizzard" the mechanics help put a new tire on a rim for a Afghan Militia Force hi-lux.





## ASK MSG NORDSTROM

If you have a question for MSG Nordstrom, drop it off at the ALOC.

Dear MSG Nordstrom,  
I heard some guys talking the other day and they mentioned that everybody is authorized to mail two boxes (50 pounds each) back to their home address free of charge. What paperwork do I need?  
Signed, Keeping Ears Wide Open

Dear Eavesdropper  
Here we go again with rumors and the infamous "THEY." Have you not read my advice in the past? Evidently not. Just drop and give me 50, one for each pound of your imaginary boxes. Don't listen to rumors, take all your marching orders from your chain of command. And for all of you that are laughing because I said 50 push ups when he actually has 100 pounds with the two boxes, you get to drop and give me the other 50. I was just being nice, must be this new foo-foo java blend I got from the S1.  
MSG N

Dear MSG Nordstrom,  
I understand that there is going to be a wedding on FOB Salerno.  
Signed, No Invite

Dear S3 Air,  
Well, Jay and Lisa at the FST haven't set a date yet, but I am sure it will be soon. I hear she is holding out until he matches her bench

press or turns 18, whichever comes first. Best wishes you two.  
MSG N

Dear MSG Nordstrom,  
What is up with the latrines? Why are there always skid marks in the toilets? Can't KBR put brushes in there for people to use after they finish their business?  
Respectively, The Brown Bomber

Dear BB,  
If you are tired of those marks in the bowl, you can do like I do. Use your trusty e-tool and dig a cat hole. I actually take two e-tools with me, gives me a resting place for both cheeks as I read the letters from my little woman back in Alaska. And as for those brushes, what Army are you in? These Joes won't use them. Well, maybe as a bore brush, but not a bowl brush. Now if everyone would just make poop sleds like when we arrived here, then no problem. For those newbies out there get with a Geronimo before they vamoose and learn about the sleds.  
MSG N

Dear MSG Nordstrom,  
I have walked all over this FOB and can't find any place where I can get any cash. That haji mart is just calling my name. I have to get that movie *Uncle Saddam*.  
Signed, Cashless

Dear Senseless,  
Where have you been for the past three weeks? Walking from your tent to the DFAC does not count as the whole FOB. Check out page 2, and you will not only find the location of finance, but also the post office and the personnel support battalion. But of

course you may not be able to count that high, so let me help you out. Go to the Hard Rock (you know where they have all the DVDs, books and games for you to use for FREE). Walk out the door and head towards the helicopter LZs. You will see three B-huts (those are the wooden buildings that they ran out of material for, so had to use a tent for a roof). The one in the center is the money people. Darn you S1, there I go being nice again.  
MSG N

Dear MSG Nordstrom,  
I heard that a certain person in the TF TOC sleeps in the buff. Is this true?  
Respectively, Having Nightmares

Dear Nightmares,  
I can neither confirm, nor deny that event. (This is my media training kicking in, thanks Geronimo Flash) If you want the truth on the matter I will direct you to the S3's tent mate, Geronimo 7. From what I hear, he might even be able to supply you with pictures.  
MSG N

Dear MSG Nordstrom,  
Now that the Geronimos' time in Afghanistan is coming to a close, what are you going to do since you will no longer have this column to fill your time?  
Signed Missing You Already

Dear Stalker,  
I talked with Gunney from *Mail Call*, and he has asked me to be a consultant for his show until my tour in Alaska is complete. Then we are going to do the show together, *Mail Call, with Master and Gunney*. I told him the only way I would do it is if I got top billing. And of course he agreed.  
MSG N

## Confiscated

How many of the following items that were confiscated by Geronimos can you locate in the puzzle?

AK  
AP  
BAYONET  
BURP GUN  
CELL PHONE  
DSHKA  
ENFIELD  
FUSES  
GRENADES

HE MINE  
MORTAR  
PISTOL  
PROMASK  
RADIOS  
ROUNDS  
RPG  
SHOTGUN  
SWORD

